



Appointed by Joseph A

Curtatone, Mayor

Date: Thursday, February 18th, 2021

Time: 6:30-8:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting using GoToMeeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/539724445>

Community Representatives:

*Ted Alexander

*Ginny Alverson – Vice Chair

*Jessica Bellow

Emma Blaxter

Georgy Cohen

*Laura Evans

*Jessica Ferguson

*Rauvin Johl

Paola Massoli

Audrey Orenstein – Secretary

*Vitor Pamplona

*Zach Rosenberg – Chair

*Julia Toof

*Emily Vides

Ex-Officio:

*Katjana Ballantyne, *City Council*

*Alexandra Kleyman, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*

*Justin Schreiber, *Mobility Division, OSPCD*

*=present

Guests:

Mark Chase - *Neighborways*

George Schneeloch - *Somerville Bike Safety*

Karen Molloy

James - *Resident of Rogers Ave*

Acting Secretary: Emily Vides

Call to order: 6:33 PM

Agenda Item 1:

1. Minutes of January meeting
 - a. Comments?
 - i. Ted pointed out some typos
 - ii. Zach fixed typos
 - b. Ted made a motion to approve; Rauvin seconded
 - c. No one opposed or abstained; minutes approved
2. In March meeting
 - a. Spring Hill Sewer Separation plan must be submitted before next meeting on 3/18
 - i. Zach will send email to reschedule for March 11
 - b. Ginny does not have update from Disability Committee

Agenda Item 2: Shared Streets - Neighborways

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1. Mark Chase - *Neighborways*
2. Shared Streets Program - Summer 2020-late fall 2020
 - a. ~60 streets were closed (13 miles)
 - b. Gateway signs
 - c. Goal was to reduce volume and speed of cars
 - d. National trend
 - e. Now working on evaluating how it went so we can develop best practices and plan for the future
3. Thoughts from PTAC
 - a. Vitor - idea was good, results were disappointing. Streets were empty, pedestrians didn't take over
 - i. Maybe because it didn't feel safe
 - b. Jessica Bellow - we all live in different areas of Somerville
 - i. Flex posts didn't work well - run over every few weeks
 - ii. Nature of the streets she used was that it didn't change much
 - c. Jessica Ferguson - Morrison's flex posts did stay, traffic speed or volume didn't change
 - i. Can we actively discourage cars from using streets? More aggressive signage? More official-looking signage.
 - ii. Intersections not safe - Cars illegally parked close to crosswalk
 - d. Rauvin Johl - Logistical barriers, but maybe we could make signage more similar to "rush hour" signs - drivers more trained to comply with certain kinds of signs
 - e. Ted Alexander - signs should be bigger
 - i. Symbolic signs that pedestrians had the right to be in the streets
 - f. Katjana Ballantyne - type was very small so it seemed like the neighborhood, not the city, put the signs up
 - i. Kids used streets once they understood - but they only learned from her
 - ii. Can we communicate with kids and families through the schools to let them know that they are invited to use the streets?
 1. Ted Alexander - the safety concerns are just too big, some of the streets are too narrow to accommodate getting out of the way if a car comes too fast
 - a. steep hills are dangerous
 - iii. To promote more public space use and think about how we use our public space (including roads), we need to connect with parents
 - g. Emily Vides - There were very few people out in Winter Hill
 - h. Ginny Alverson - People without sight were not considered in this. All signage was made for people with sight
 - i. Mark Chase - visually impaired people should be considered, including when roads are icy. It's a very difficult problem to solve, but they will explore possible solutions and ways to get a better place
 - ii. Blind community doesn't want to share with her
 1. Tactical stripping to indicate shared street? On sidewalk or in street itself?

4. Mark Chase - *Neighborways* will come back with updates after they incorporate our suggestions.
Send updates or comments to transportation@somervillema.gov

Agenda Item 3: PTAC Survey Results

1. Priority list
 - a. Post Street Treatment Updates - how city evaluates and collects data on street changes
 - b. Sidewalk and Roadway resurfacing - prioritization and upcoming plans
 - c. Bus network redesign 101
 - d. Parking dept. topics - parking study phase 2 scope
 - e. ADA transition plan
 - f. Transit and pedestrian planning 101
 - g. zoning and planning
 - h. Intersection classification
 - i. TransitMatters Mobility Hubs
 - j. McGrath Highway-related items
 - k. Mystic Ave
2. Feedback - what's going well
 - a. People have been staying engaged during the pandemic
 - b. Discussions have stayed on topic
 - c. Striking balance
3. Need to be tweaked
 - a. subcommittee involvement
 - b. focus on deliverables
 - c. how to track our own performance
 - d. still difficult to balance between city updates and discussion
 - e. Follow up
 - f. Difficult to focus
4. Additional topics to explore
 - a. Prioritizing
 - b. reach out to other orgs (in Cambridge)
 - c. Dedicate more time to transit-specific topics
5. City to be better resource for city staff
 - a. more consistent follow up
 - b. sounding board for earlier stages of a project
 - c. feedback for city projects - upcoming and finished projects
 - d. get feedback from city
6. Better resource for residents
 - a. invite more residents
 - b. website set up
 - c. update website regularly
 - d. aggregate info from many different websites
 - e. social media plan
7. How committee shares progress

- a. name our achievements - show impact
 - b. share letters
 - c. share with local news
- 8. Conclusions
 - a. Ask for subcommittees for monthly updates on actions and goals
 - b. track actions and to-dos
 - c. keep track of and publicize list of upcoming topics
 - d. check in with members on balance of city updates and discussion
- 9. Comments? (none)
- 10. Take survey and send comment to Zach

Agenda Item 4: Bylaws Update

- 1. Discuss reviewing the bylaws
 - a. Zach to send out Audrey's edits
- 2. Proposal for policy-focused updates
 - a. Ted has been working on addition - add sections for Opinions & Resolutions
 - i. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZUk3NNcJ-mZMXSOKDaHGLuU9tmkC1kGxvJfdiFXR-pl/edit?usp=sharing>
 - ii. Resolutions - research and then report back to PTAC
 - iii. Came out of Policy & Enforcement Sub-committee
 - iv. Jessica Bellow - use this for a deep dive into an issue, gives us a strategic way to move forward on an issue
- 3. Let's vote on this in April

Questions

- Jessica Bellow - clearing snow at bus stops
 - Who is responsible for clearing bus stops? MBTA?
 - Ballantyne - MBTA is supposed to do it, but they do not often do it
 - DPW used to help out
 - Justin Schreiber says it's DPW who should be responsible
 - Gilly Alverson - buck is always passed
 - Zach - Report to 311 for data purposes
 - Alexandra Kleyman - MBTA just got new contract to do it
 - Curb cuts? - property owners

Agenda Item 5: City Update - 2021 Project Plan

- 1. Vision Zero
 - a. Send comments and questions by 3/5
- 2. Davis Sq signal improvements
- 3. Rt 38/28 Intersection improvements
- 4. McGrath Resurfacing and Road Diet - 3rd St to Broadway
 - a. Construction starts summer 2021
 - b. Goals

- i. 20 new ADA ramps
 - ii. 2 miles of lane reductions per direction
 - iii. 2 miles of new buffered bike lane per direction
 - iv. signal timing modification at Broadway & Pearl
- 5. Process: Retrospective
 - a. Total Hours spent each year by project type
 - i. Sample:
 - 1. W Washington 180 hrs
 - 2. Powder House Blvd 305 hrs
 - 3. Broadway Winter Hill 650 hrs
 - ii. Leads into project planning
- 6. Projects and Priorities (see slides)
 - a. ~140 tasks
 - i. plans
 - ii. projects
 - iii. interdepartmental coordination
 - iv. administration
 - b. Prioritization
 - c. Assign Project manager
 - d. Non-discretionary (committed to it), Priority 1, Priority 2 & 3
- 7. Selecting Project Locations
 - a. Developed database of intersections
 - b. Developed scoring rubric
 - c. Used to identify locations for permanent and quick-build projects
 - d. In coming weeks they will use this process and lists and will share with PTAC and bike committee
- 8. Questions/Comment?
 - a. Ted Alexander - asked question on prioritization - Ali answered: having database is a big improvement & being able to understand where locations rank on list is hugely helpful
 - b. Katjana Ballantyne - how many projects rely on outside contractors based on projections for the next fiscal year? There's so much to be done as soon as possible - outside consultants can augment what you can do and get the projects done quicker
 - i. Ali - we have good relationships with consultants. this is second time she'll be going through budget process, and they have and will use consultants
 - ii. Justin Schreiber - to get us to 100% finished, we need to use consultants, but that makes the role of Project Management more involved
 - iii. Ali - quick-build projects - Adam on their team draws up the plans
 - c. What is the Education plan for city workers for Vision Zero plan - can't connect the dots from the work plan from last year to implementation
 - i. Mobility Div is responsible for coordinating with other departments and making sure actions are done by other departments
 - ii. Working Group will continue to build on that and message from Administration

Meeting ended: 8:08 PM